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Schultze hope, the end of eight years of divided government will make public controversy about policy less simplistic, this compendium of modest, pragmatic proposals could be a citizen's mainstay.

**THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION**

By Michael N. Danielson  
Columbia, 1976, 443 pp.  
\$17.50 cloth, \$6.95 paper  
L of C 76-7609  
ISBN 0-231-03697-3  
ISBN 0-231-08342-4 pbk.

In terms of housing for minorities and the poor, the United States is retreating from its commitment to an open society, says Princeton professor Danielson. Two primary factors contribute to the retreat: fragmentation of authority and responsibility among local governments in big urban areas hampers concerted action to equalize opportunities; and there is a weakening of commitment to open housing goals on the part of Washington. Danielson strongly favors moves to lower suburban barriers that affect low-income and minority families but is pessimistic that much can be done, given the limited impact of legal rulings in separated areas. In this cogent study, he uses the evidence for open housing selectively to support his own point of view, scorning different perspectives or alternative arrangements. But even those who disagree with him will find his book stimulating and provocative.

**THE POLITICS OF ADOPTION**

By Mary Kathleen Benet  
Free Press, 1976  
235 pp. \$8.95  
L of C 76-14287  
ISBN 0-02-902500-1.

Ms. Benet traces the history of adoption of children as it has been practiced and regarded in Eastern and Western civilizations, relating past experience to present-day research, particularly in the United States. Practical, moral, psychological, highly political questions always crop up, reflecting larger issues of kinship, race, poverty, and nationalism. In a foreword, psychologist Robert Jay Lifton (whose wife was an adopted daughter) addresses himself to contemporary Americans, pleading that "we are surely capable of evolving a system of adoption which opens out toward truth." He recommends reconsideration of "the strange legal policy of the sealing of records" and the "equally strange role of adoption agencies in perpetuating the whole constellation of de-

ception and illusion" that surrounds adopted children. Useful background information, soberly written, but short on statistics that might have provided a clearer picture of adoption today.

*Arts & Letters*

**AMERICA AS ART**

By Joshua C. Taylor  
Smithsonian, 1976, 320 pp.  
\$25 cloth, \$9.60 paper  
L of C 76-4482  
ISBN 0-87474-900-X

No Copley? Homer? Eakins? No Sargent? This catalog, writes Taylor, director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, is not simply a survey of highlights of American art. Instead, it shows many robust, lesser-known works selected to support the thesis that certain "attitudes about America" became inseparable from its art, and some art "became an identifying mark of America." Eight studies or "moments" when art and the identity of America came close together—from the 17th-century Indian maiden transformed into the goddess "America" to contemporary artists' responses to uniformity and isolation—are featured among 336 black-and-white and 10 color illustrations. The combination of John G. Cawelti's text and a stunning series of George Catlin's Indian paintings makes the chapter on "The Frontier and the Native American" particularly effective.

**MYTHS**

By Alexander Eliot, et al.  
McGraw Hill, 1976, 320 pp.  
\$34.95 to May 31, 1977  
\$39.95 thereafter  
L of C 76-20186  
ISBN 0-07-019193-X

Visually and intellectually, this is a cosmic coffee-table book. In it, Eliot retells many of the world's major myths, from American Indian creation stories to the Tower of Babel legend in many cultures, without scanting detail. Authoritative contributors back him up: Mircea Eliade analyzes the historical development of myth interpretation; Joseph Campbell outlines the emergence of myths in different parts of the world, tying them to 16 pages of good maps; and Detlef-I. Lauf provides informative captions and ingenious graphics to accompany the more than 1,300 well-chosen illustrations (many in full color) of mythological motifs in art from the world's ancient and modern civilizations.